purchase procedure with adequate delegation of powers, have been accepted.

The long term recommendations like parity in all respect with medical officers of ESI Scheme and their counterparts in the general health services, contractual arrangements for running ambulance services, cleaning, security, laundry, kitchen and maintenance of equipments etc. have been approved.

Recommendation such as grant of exemption in the event of both the employer and employee unanimously requesting for exemption, flow of funds from ESIC directly to the State Government ESI Scheme, privatisation of hospital management, and introduction of IMP system are at different stages of examination for implementation.

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has formulated Action Plans to modernize ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries during 1998-99, 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 and equipments worth Rs. 45.61 crore have been sanctioned under these Action Plans.

Revision of Provident Fund Pension Scheme

2730. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending to revise the Provident Fund Pension Scheme on the basis of basic wages of employees;

(b) whether the PF Pension Scheme would be revised to enhance the pension amount on the basis of hike in price index; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Ministry. However, the wage ceiling for coverage under the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 has been enhanced from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 6500/- per month with effect from 1.6.2001.

(b) and (c) Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 has a provision for

annual valuation of Pension Fund. Based on valuation results as also the availability of resources relief is granted to the pensioners, in addition to the minimum pension payable. Till date, four additional reliefs have been granted under the scheme.

Efficient, Corruption-free Government Machinery

2731. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken for making Government's administrative machinery free from inefficiency, corruption and lethargy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): It has been the continuing Endeavour of the Government to check irregularities and malpractices in Government Departments. Policies in this regard have been formulated and are continuously monitored and modified in order to make them more effective and responsive to the needs of the changing environment. In the Government, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions acts as a Nodal Agency and coordinates the efforts of the Ministries/Departments in the fields of vigilance and anti-corruption activities of various agencies involved in the task. The Annual Action Plan prepared by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions envisages a three-pronged strategy for combating corruption in public life. The broad features of the Action Plan are:

(i) Preventive vigilance;

(ii) Surveillance and detection; and

(iii) Deterrent punitive action.

For conferring a statutory status on Central Vigilance Commission, CVC Bill has been introduced in Parliament. After the Bill was reported by the Joint Parliament Committee, it is awaiting consideration and passing by the Parliament.

Lok Pal Bill, 2001 was introduced by the Government in the Lok